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26 June 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

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SUBJECT : Algerian Support for Palestinian Terrorists

1. There is no evidence that Algeria is currently a significant patron state supporter of Palestinian terrorism. In the past, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the GOA

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did provide various Palestinian groups with operational support such as blank passports. The GOA, on several occasions, did permit hijacked airliners to land on Algerian territory and did not extradite the surrendering hijackers. For several reasons, this kind of support is no longer offered to terrorist groups.

2. Changes in the leadership of the GOA, an increased concern for bilateral relations with Western industrialized states, and a growing realization of the costs of patron state support have all led to a diminished Algerian role in support for Palestinian terrorism. The use of Algerian passports by Fatah operatives involved in the July 1978 grenade attack on the Iraqi ambassador to London garnered unfavorable publicity. The use of Algerian runways by hijacked airliners also caused unfavorable publicity and the GOA eventually realized the dangers involved in becoming involved in such operations.

3. The GOA does offer the PLO and some of its constituent members certain diplomatic privileges in Algeria, and radical groups such as the PFLP may take advantage of Algerian hospitality by carrying out some covert operations from their office in Algiers. However, it is doubtful that the GOA condones such activities.

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4. The GOA is a member of the Confrontation and Steadfastness Front, the most radical and uncompromising of the various anti-Israeli Arab groupings. There are indications, however, that the GOA is probably the most moderate of the member states (as opposed to Libya, Syria, and the PDRY) and probably backs Arafat and the moderate wing of the PLO.

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International Issues Division  
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